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ABSTRACT

After 3 years of dramatic gains, the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for the Wake County (North Carolina) Public Schools stayed essentially level for 1994 graduates. The scores did reflect a one point drop in the average total score, which is not considered significant. The leveling off matches a similar trend for the entire state. Wake County's average SAT score places it above the state's average scores, and above many states nationwide. When only states for which SAT scores are available for at least 40% of graduating seniors are considered, Wake County scores above Oregon, which is in first place. Ten tables and three figures illustrate test results and comparative information for the rest of the state. (SLD)

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TESTING BULLETIN
SAT RESULTS FOR WCPSS 1994 GRADUATES

Bob Michaud

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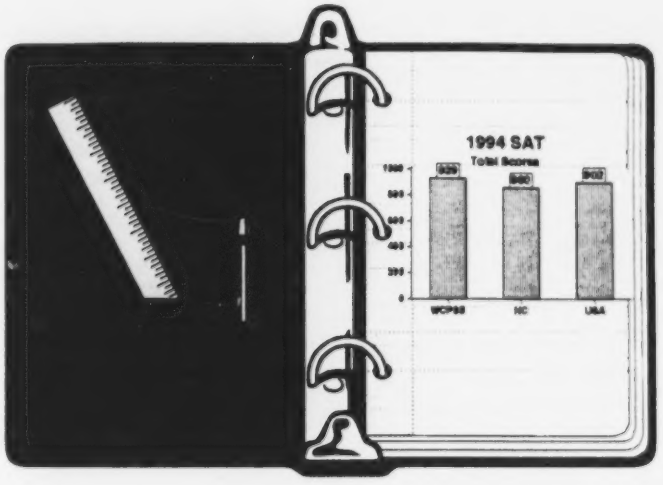
TESTING BULLETIN
SAT RESULTS FOR WCPSS 1994 GRADUATES

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Department of Evaluation and Research

August 25, 1994
Bob Michaud 850-1840

After three years of dramatic gains, the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for the WCPSS stayed essentially level for 1994 graduates. The scores did reflect a 1 point drop in the average Total Score, which is not considered significant. This leveling off matches a similar trend for the state, which showed a 1 point increase this year. The WCPSS average score remained above the national average while maintaining a participation rate that is much higher than the national rate.



WCPSS - Graduating Seniors

	Total	Math	Verbal	Participation Rate
1994	929	497	432	75%
1993	930	498	432	76%
1992	923	492	431	74%
1991	904	483	421	75%
1990	895	472	423	73%
1989	896	471	425	72%

This year's average SAT score for Wake County places it above the average scores for North Carolina and many states, nationwide. In fact, when only the "SAT states" are considered (i.e. the states for which SAT scores are available for at least 40% of the graduating seniors) WCPSS scores higher than the state of Oregon, which is in first place.

Comparisons with other North Carolina school systems also remained favorable, particularly

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comparisons with the five other school systems that have been defined by the state as similar to WCPSS in terms of their demographic profile. Within the cluster of 6 districts that includes WCPSS, only Chapel Hill City Schools exceeded the average score for WCPSS.

WCPSS, NC, USA - 1994 SAT Scores

	WCPSS	NC	USA
Total	929	860	902
Math	497	455	479
Verbal	432	405	423
Participation Rates	75	60	42

Disaggregated Results for 1994 Graduates

As shown below, the positive overall performance of WCPSS graduating seniors holds true for all major subgroups of students. Of particular interest, disaggregated scores for major subgroups are higher than for their counterparts nationwide. The difference in average scores between racial groups remains a concern, however, and merits additional exploration.

	Math	Comparison to USA Group Performance	Verbal	Comparison to USA Group Performance
All Students	497	+18	432	+9
Female	480	+20	431	+10
Male	516	+15	432	+7
Black	399	+11	354	+2
White	513	+18	448	+5

NOTE

Scores reported in this bulletin are for 1994 graduates. A small number of the graduates took the new version of the SAT introduced in 1994. ETS adjusted the scoring scales on the new test for 1994 to make the scores comparable to scores from the old test. According to ETS, the following changes were made to the SAT (now called the SAT I Reasoning Test):

- increased emphasis on critical reading,
- an introduction of vocabulary-in-context questions,
- elimination of antonyms,
- an introduction of student-produced responses ("grid-ins")
- permitted use of calculators (recommended but not required)

In addition, the battery of SAT II (formally Achievement Tests) now includes a Writing Test and Foreign Language Tests with Listening components in Japanese, Chinese, French, German, and Spanish.

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL SAT 1991-1994 GRADUATES' SCORES

	1993-94 Graduates			1992-1993 Graduates			1991-92 Graduates		
	Verbal	Math	Total	Verbal	Math	Total	Verbal	Math	Total
USA	423	479	902	424	478	902	423	476	899
NC	405	455	860	406	453	859	405	450	855
WAKE COUNTY	432	497	929	432	498	930	431	492	923
APEX	443	517	960	445	518	963	436	506	942
ATHENS DRIVE	412	478	890	420	474	894	419	476	895
BROUGHTON	446	522	968	447	524	971	456	517	973
CARY	435	492	927	427	491	918	427	499	926
EAST WAKE	386	437	823	390	441	831	394	448	842
ENLOE	478	539	1017	484	545	1029	468	525	993
FUQUAY-VARINA	388	445	833	380	447	827	397	454	851
GARNER	404	466	870	395	472	867	410	471	881
LEESVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MILLBROOK	438	508	946	436	500	936	437	497	934
SANDERSON	425	491	916	436	499	935	427	485	912
WF-ROLESVILLE	417	473	890	409	480	889	397	464	861

c: High School Principals
Cabinet
Board
Media Specialists
Team Leaders
E&R Staff

Attachment

1988-89 — 1993-94 SAT Scores
School System Report

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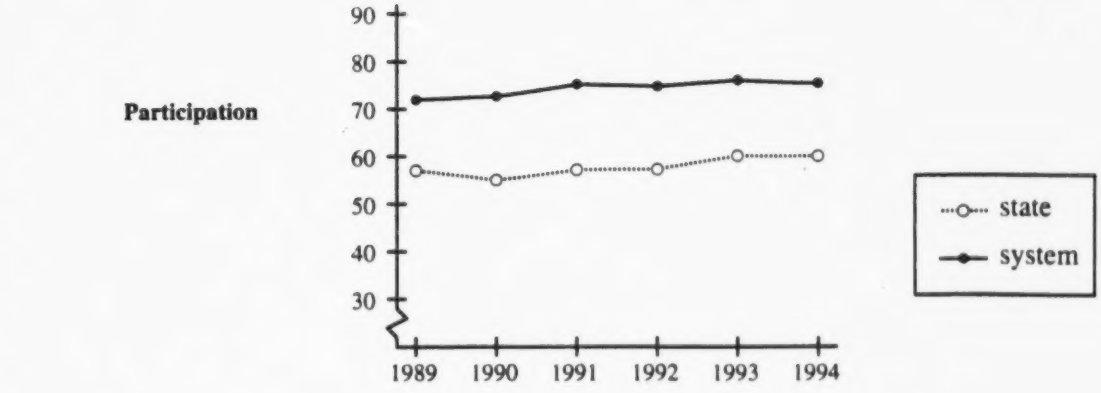
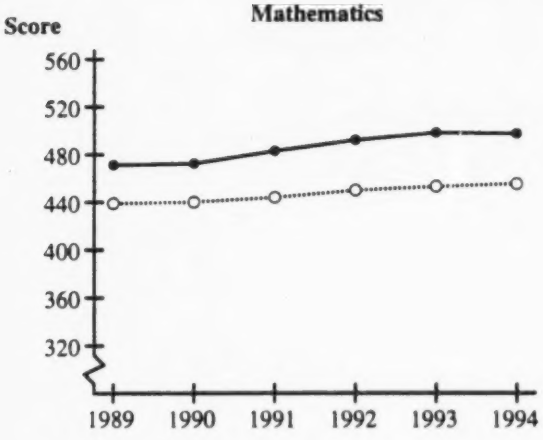
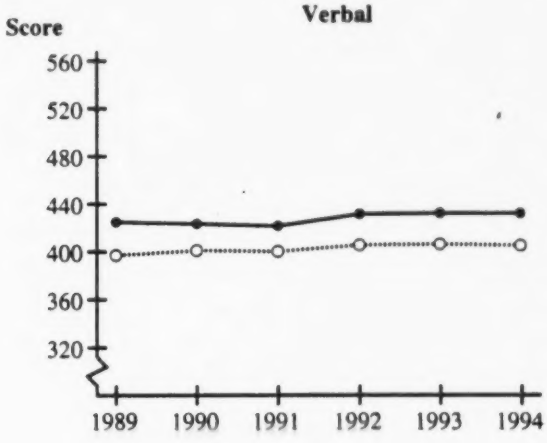
Wake County







	Participation Rate				Mathematics			Verbal		
Year	U.S.	N.C.	System	Number Tested	U.S.	N.C.	System	U.S.	N.C.	System
1989	N/A	57	72	2969	476	439	471	427	397	425
1990	40	55	73	2778	476	440	472	424	401	423
1991	42	57	75	2740	474	444	483	422	400	421
1992	42	57	74	2738	476	450	492	423	405	431
1993	43	60	76	2819	478	453	498	424	406	432
1994	42	60	75	2850	479	455	497	423	405	432

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Wake County
Participation Rate[1]= 75.3

1993-94 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Scores
School System Report
Mathematics

	SYSTEM N	SYSTEM Average	SYSTEM %	U.S. Average	U.S. %	DIFFERENCE FROM U.S.
All Students	2850	497	(100)	479	(100)	18
Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects						
20 or More	813	548	(36)	526	(41)	22
19 or 19.5	383	525	(17)	495	(14)	30
18 or 18.5	303	493	(14)	475	(13)	18
17 or 17.5	210	470	(9)	452	(10)	18
16 or 16.5	160	440	(7)	433	(7)	7
15 or 15.5	163	441	(7)	424	(6)	17
Fewer Than 15	202	433	(9)	403	(9)	30
No Response	616					
Sex						
Male	1295	516	(45)	501	(47)	15
Female	1555	480	(55)	460	(53)	20
Ethnicity						
American Indian	16	466	(1)	441	(1)	25
Asian American	122	574	(5)	535	(9)	39
Black	389	399	(14)	388	(11)	11
White	2089	513	(78)	495	(69)	18
Other	74	477	(3)	439	(10)	38
No Response	160					
Family Income						
Less than $10,000	48	412	(2)	416	(6)	-4
$10,000 - $20,000	171	444	(7)	435	(11)	9
$20,000 - $30,000	250	463	(10)	454	(13)	9
$30,000 - $40,000	335	478	(13)	469	(16)	9
$40,000 - $50,000	302	486	(12)	482	(13)	4
$50,000 - $60,000	342	502	(14)	492	(11)	10
$60,000 - $70,000	268	508	(11)	502	(8)	6
More than $70,000	785	538	(31)	531	(23)	7
No Response	349					
Parent Education Level						
No High School Diploma	32	419	(1)	407	(5)	12
High School Diploma	758	450	(28)	445	(36)	5
Associate Degree	219	474	(8)	458	(8)	16
Bachelor's Degree	988	509	(37)	503	(27)	6
Graduate Degree	687	548	(26)	535	(24)	13
No Response	166					
High School Grade Point Average						
A+	231	644	(9)	620	(5)	24
A	299	588	(11)	568	(13)	20
A-	310	549	(12)	535	(14)	14
B	1179	487	(44)	458	(51)	29
C	631	409	(24)	393	(16)	16
D	28	355	(1)	372	(0)	-17
No Response	172					
High School Class Rank						
Top Tenth	351	627	(15)	586	(22)	41
Second Tenth	444	560	(19)	514	(22)	46
Second Fifth	625	502	(26)	467	(27)	35
Third Fifth	774	438	(33)	415	(24)	23
Fourth Fifth	134	391	(6)	382	(4)	9
Fifth Fifth	36	364	(2)	363	(1)	1
No Response	486					

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[1]Participation rate is based on the number of students taking the SAT and 12th grade 7th month average daily membership.

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Wake County
Participation Rate[1] = 75.3

1993-94 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Scores
School System Report
Verbal

	SYSTEM N	SYSTEM Average	SYSTEM %	U.S. Average	U.S. %	DIFFERENCE FROM U.S.
All Students	2850	432	(100)	423	(100)	9
Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects						
20 or More	813	486	(36)	470	(41)	16
19 or 19.5	383	456	(17)	437	(14)	19
18 or 18.5	303	417	(14)	416	(13)	1
17 or 17.5	210	400	(9)	396	(10)	4
16 or 16.5	160	386	(7)	380	(7)	6
15 or 15.5	163	386	(7)	371	(6)	15
Fewer Than 15	202	353	(9)	347	(9)	6
No Response	616					
Sex						
Male	1295	432	(45)	425	(47)	7
Female	1555	431	(55)	421	(53)	10
Ethnicity						
American Indian	16	425	(1)	396	(1)	29
Asian American	122	433	(5)	416	(9)	17
Black	389	354	(14)	352	(11)	2
White	2089	448	(78)	443	(69)	5
Other	74	421	(3)	386	(10)	34
No Response	160					
Family Income						
Less than $10,000	48	370	(2)	350	(6)	20
$10,000 - $20,000	171	371	(7)	377	(11)	-6
$20,000 - $30,000	250	394	(10)	402	(13)	-8
$30,000 - $40,000	335	420	(13)	416	(16)	4
$40,000 - $50,000	302	414	(12)	429	(13)	-15
$50,000 - $60,000	342	434	(14)	437	(11)	-3
$60,000 - $70,000	268	446	(11)	446	(8)	0
More than $70,000	785	470	(31)	469	(23)	1
No Response	349					
Parent Education Level						
No High School Diploma	32	350	(1)	336	(5)	14
High School Diploma	758	389	(28)	393	(36)	-4
Associate Degree	219	411	(8)	406	(8)	5
Bachelor's Degree	988	437	(37)	443	(27)	-6
Graduate Degree	687	486	(26)	478	(24)	8
No Response	166					
High School Grade Point Average						
A+	231	560	(9)	545	(5)	15
A	299	505	(11)	497	(13)	8
A-	310	471	(12)	467	(14)	4
B	1179	419	(44)	405	(51)	14
C	631	364	(24)	353	(16)	11
D	28	321	(1)	336	(0)	-15
No Response	172					
High School Class Rank						
Top Tenth	351	541	(15)	512	(22)	29
Second Tenth	444	478	(19)	447	(22)	31
Second Fifth	625	427	(26)	410	(27)	17
Third Fifth	774	387	(33)	373	(24)	14
Fourth Fifth	134	349	(6)	349	(4)	0
Fifth Fifth	36	332	(2)	332	(1)	0
No Response	486					

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[1]Participation rate is based on the number of students taking the SAT and 12th grade 7th month average daily membership.

1993-94 SAT FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

Wake County
Number Tested: 2850
Average Score: 929

Score	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	Score	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1600	0	0.00	0	0.00	990	47	1.65	1096	38.46
1590	0	0.00	0	0.00	980	59	2.07	1155	40.53
1580	0	0.00	0	0.00	970	45	1.58	1200	42.11
1570	0	0.00	0	0.00	960	47	1.65	1247	43.75
1560	0	0.00	0	0.00	950	55	1.93	1302	45.68
1550	0	0.00	0	0.00	940	53	1.86	1355	47.54
1540	1	0.04	1	0.04	930	45	1.58	1400	49.12
1530	0	0.00	1	0.04	920	69	2.42	1469	51.54
1520	0	0.00	1	0.04	910	67	2.35	1536	53.89
1510	1	0.04	2	0.07	900	54	1.89	1590	55.79
1500	0	0.00	2	0.07	890	51	1.79	1641	57.58
1490	3	0.11	5	0.18	880	43	1.51	1684	59.09
1480	1	0.04	6	0.21	870	61	2.14	1745	61.23
1470	5	0.18	11	0.39	860	58	2.04	1803	63.26
1460	2	0.07	13	0.46	850	43	1.51	1846	64.77
1450	5	0.18	18	0.63	840	35	1.23	1881	66.00
1440	2	0.07	20	0.70	830	54	1.89	1935	67.89
1430	4	0.14	24	0.84	820	57	2.00	1992	69.89
1420	4	0.14	28	0.98	810	55	1.93	2047	71.82
1410	6	0.21	34	1.19	800	35	1.23	2082	73.05
1400	3	0.11	37	1.30	790	43	1.51	2125	74.56
1390	4	0.14	41	1.44	780	39	1.37	2164	75.93
1380	4	0.14	45	1.58	770	42	1.47	2206	77.40
1370	12	0.42	57	2.00	760	42	1.47	2248	78.88
1360	10	0.35	67	2.35	750	36	1.26	2284	80.14
1350	6	0.21	73	2.56	740	41	1.44	2325	81.58
1340	7	0.25	80	2.81	730	38	1.33	2363	82.91
1330	10	0.35	90	3.16	720	33	1.16	2396	84.07
1320	11	0.39	101	3.54	710	29	1.02	2425	85.09
1310	12	0.42	113	3.96	700	34	1.19	2459	86.28
1300	12	0.42	125	4.39	690	30	1.05	2489	87.33
1290	22	0.77	147	5.16	680	29	1.02	2518	88.35
1280	20	0.70	167	5.86	670	17	0.60	2535	88.95
1270	17	0.60	184	6.46	660	19	0.67	2554	89.61
1260	15	0.53	199	6.98	650	32	1.12	2586	90.74
1250	20	0.70	219	7.68	640	22	0.77	2608	91.51
1240	13	0.46	232	8.14	630	30	1.05	2638	92.56
1230	23	0.81	255	8.95	620	20	0.70	2658	93.26
1220	19	0.67	274	9.61	610	17	0.60	2675	93.86
1210	27	0.95	301	10.56	600	12	0.42	2687	94.28
1200	18	0.63	319	11.19	590	19	0.67	2706	94.95
1190	27	0.95	346	12.14	580	18	0.63	2724	95.58
1180	21	0.74	367	12.88	570	17	0.60	2741	96.18
1170	22	0.77	389	13.65	560	16	0.56	2757	96.74
1160	28	0.98	417	14.63	550	13	0.46	2770	97.19
1150	32	1.12	449	15.75	540	13	0.46	2783	97.65
1140	29	1.02	478	16.77	530	15	0.53	2798	98.18
1130	35	1.23	513	18.00	520	13	0.46	2811	98.63
1120	26	0.91	539	18.91	510	4	0.14	2815	98.77
1110	43	1.51	582	20.42	500	9	0.32	2824	99.09
1100	34	1.19	616	21.61	490	4	0.14	2828	99.23
1090	24	0.84	640	22.46	480	3	0.11	2831	99.33
1080	39	1.37	679	23.82	470	5	0.18	2836	99.51
1070	33	1.16	712	24.98	460	5	0.18	2841	99.68
1060	35	1.23	747	26.21	450	4	0.14	2845	99.82
1050	47	1.65	794	27.86	440	2	0.07	2847	99.89
1040	56	1.96	850	29.82	430	0	0.00	2847	99.89
1030	49	1.72	899	31.54	420	3	0.11	2850	100.00
1020	53	1.86	952	33.40	410	0	0.00	2850	100.00
1010	47	1.65	999	35.05	400	0	0.00	2850	100.00
1000	50	1.75	1049	36.81					

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1993-94 SAT FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

920 Wake County

Mathematics Score Distribution				Average Score: 497	Verbal Score Distribution				Average Score: 432
Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	Score	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
1	0.04	1	0.04	800	0	0.00	0	0.00	
4	0.14	5	0.18	790	0	0.00	0	0.00	
9	0.32	14	0.49	780	0	0.00	0	0.00	
3	0.11	17	0.60	770	0	0.00	0	0.00	
12	0.42	29	1.02	760	1	0.04	1	0.04	
10	0.35	39	1.37	750	3	0.11	4	0.14	
31	1.09	70	2.46	740	1	0.04	5	0.18	
18	0.63	88	3.09	730	2	0.07	7	0.25	
23	0.81	111	3.89	720	10	0.35	17	0.60	
30	1.05	141	4.95	710	6	0.21	23	0.81	
13	0.46	154	5.40	700	6	0.21	29	1.02	
30	1.05	184	6.46	690	13	0.46	42	1.47	
23	0.81	207	7.26	680	16	0.56	58	2.04	
50	1.75	257	9.02	670	8	0.28	66	2.32	
40	1.40	297	10.42	660	12	0.42	78	2.74	
36	1.26	333	11.68	650	17	0.60	95	3.33	
56	1.96	389	13.65	640	16	0.56	111	3.89	
29	1.02	418	14.67	630	21	0.74	132	4.63	
55	1.93	473	16.60	620	22	0.77	154	5.40	
54	1.89	527	18.49	610	27	0.95	181	6.35	
54	1.89	581	20.39	600	22	0.77	203	7.12	
69	2.42	650	22.81	590	31	1.09	234	8.21	
79	2.77	729	25.58	580	48	1.68	282	9.89	
58	2.04	787	27.61	570	37	1.30	319	11.19	
93	3.26	880	30.88	560	68	2.39	387	13.58	
77	2.70	957	33.58	550	47	1.65	434	15.23	
90	3.16	1047	36.74	540	52	1.82	486	17.05	
89	3.12	1136	39.86	530	49	1.72	535	18.77	
95	3.33	1231	43.19	520	82	2.88	617	21.65	
116	4.07	1347	47.26	510	59	2.07	676	23.72	
99	3.47	1446	50.74	500	104	3.65	780	27.37	
80	2.81	1526	53.54	490	52	1.82	832	29.19	
94	3.30	1620	56.84	480	115	4.04	947	33.23	
86	3.02	1706	59.86	470	110	3.86	1057	37.09	
94	3.30	1800	63.16	460	73	2.56	1130	39.65	
121	4.25	1921	67.40	450	110	3.86	1240	43.51	
68	2.39	1989	69.79	440	75	2.63	1315	46.14	
65	2.28	2054	72.07	430	130	4.56	1445	50.70	
82	2.88	2136	74.95	420	91	3.19	1536	53.89	
74	2.60	2210	77.54	410	113	3.96	1649	57.86	
64	2.25	2274	79.79	400	100	3.51	1749	61.37	
47	1.65	2321	81.44	390	118	4.14	1867	65.51	
61	2.14	2382	83.58	380	86	3.02	1953	68.53	
55	1.93	2437	85.51	370	115	4.04	2068	72.56	
49	1.72	2486	87.23	360	75	2.63	2143	75.19	
49	1.72	2535	88.95	350	118	4.14	2261	79.33	
44	1.54	2579	90.49	340	64	2.25	2325	81.58	
48	1.68	2627	92.18	330	61	2.14	2386	83.72	
26	0.91	2653	93.09	320	71	2.49	2457	86.21	
35	1.23	2688	94.32	310	45	1.58	2502	87.79	
40	1.40	2728	95.72	300	56	1.96	2558	89.75	
28	0.98	2756	96.70	290	52	1.82	2610	91.58	
15	0.53	2771	97.23	280	52	1.82	2662	93.40	
17	0.60	2788	97.82	270	52	1.82	2714	95.23	
18	0.63	2806	98.46	260	23	0.81	2737	96.04	
18	0.63	2824	99.09	250	22	0.77	2759	96.81	
9	0.32	2833	99.40	240	17	0.60	2776	97.40	
3	0.11	2836	99.51	230	13	0.46	2789	97.86	
7	0.25	2843	99.75	220	13	0.46	2802	98.32	
3	0.11	2846	99.86	210	15	0.53	2817	98.84	
4	0.14	2850	100.00	200	33	1.16	2850	100.00	

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